

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Previously presented) A monoclonal antibody reacting with a surface antigen present on fetal red blood cells and their nucleated precursor cells, but not with CD71 or other surface antigens on adult erythroid cells.
2. (Currently amended) The antibody according to claim 1, having reactivity with fetal erythroid cells and their nucleated precursor cells, which express the CD71 antigen but are negative for CD45 antigen expression.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A hybridoma cell producing a monoclonal antibody reacting with a surface antigen present on fetal red blood cells and their nucleated precursor cells, but not with CD71 or other surface antigens on adult erythroid cells.
- 5-12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) A method for detection or identification of fetal red blood cells in a sample comprising labeling said fetal red blood cells and their nucleated precursor cells with ~~[[an]]~~a monoclonal antibody according to claim 1.
14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the sample is maternal blood ~~or a sample of maternal blood~~.
15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13, where said fetal red blood cells and their nucleated precursor cells are, subsequent to the detection and identification, further analyzed for a chromosomal or genetic defects.
16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13, further comprising separating fetal red blood cells and their nucleated precursor cells binding the monoclonal antibody

by flow cytometry, solid phase separation, immunomagnetic bead separation, or panning on plastic surfaces.